

Executive Director Report

January 22, 2009

Budget

- Commission member contributions are continuing to be received for FY 08-09.
- Agreement to receive grant funding awarded by the California Coastal Conservancy in the amount of \$100,000 (\$5,000 to DPC for administrative oversight) for Delta Trail planning has been executed. Contract for consulting team support is being finalized. Funding is on hold due to State budget status.
- Grant funding from the Solano County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund has been awarded to the Commission and California Native Plant Society in the amount of \$17,630 for funding of a component of the Delta Trail in Solano County at the Benicia State Recreation Area Native Plant Garden.

Legislation

Senate Bill 12, Simitian, Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, Clean Drinking Water, Water Supply Security, and Environmental Improvement Act of 2009 is being monitored by staff.

Meetings were held with Delta Legislators to discuss State Lands Commission abandoned vessel removal legislative concept.

Projects/Facilitation

- Continued to hold meetings of the Management Plan Update Advisory Team; presented draft policy revisions at two public workshops in the Delta; prepared update for Commission discussion.
- Provided Commission input to Delta Vision Committee relative to DV Implementation Program Discussion Documents.
- Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum process has progressed from educational phase to preliminary project discussion phase. Program funding has been put on hold as a result of the current status of the State budget.
- Continuing to finalize consultant contracts for Delta Trail planning process in Contra Costa and Solano counties.
- Facilitated meeting of the Delta Ag Easement discussion group, including landowners who have been working with Delta county land trusts.
- Participated in stakeholder meetings held by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to gather public input for the development of a Delta Mercury TMDL.

The facilitated process is in response to comments provided by the Delta Mercury TMDL Collaborative facilitated by the Commission requesting enhanced outreach.

- Facilitated discussions between local government representatives and the State Lands Commission about abandoned vessel issues and development of a legislative concept with a focus on removal of commercial vessels.
- Continuing to seek funding for the Strategy for Collaborative Emergency Response Planning in the California Delta Region – Phase 2 in follow-up to completion of Phase 1.
- Participated in the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Workshop on Transportation held by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments to provide a Delta perspective.
- Met with San Joaquin County planning staff to discuss the County's General Plan update process.
- Attended Solano County Board of Supervisors meeting to provide support for award of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant to the Commission and its partners, including the California Native Plant Society.
- Participated in California Natural Resources Agency Climate Change meetings and workshops to provide input relative to the Commission's Management Plan policies.
- Participated in the Annual Habitat Conservation Plan Workshop.

Public Affairs/Outreach

- Made audio presentation about the Commission via Department of Water Resources Aqua Cast series.
- Continued to provide updates about Commission-sponsored programs and projects for inclusion in Delta E-news.
- Provided update of Commission programs and projects to the CALFED Agency Coordination Team.
- Participated in Natural Resources Agency Department Head meetings.
- Participated in DWR PIO Team meetings.